

Message Text

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12

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7641

INFO AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

UNCLAS CANBERRA 1713

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: AS, PINT

SUBJ: GOA-US RELATIONS

1. IN INTERVIEW IN CANBERRA TIMES MARCH 3, FONMIN PEACOCK
MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON GOA-US RELATIONS:

2. QTE. Q. YOU ARE VISITING THE UNITED STATES IN A FEW WEEKS.
WHAT PRIORITIES DO YOU HAVE IN DEVELOPING OUR RELATIONS WITH
THE UNITED STATES? DO YOU THINK THERE IS ANY SERIOUS DAMAGE
TO BE REPAIRED?

3. QTE. A. WELL, WE'VE DONE A NUMBER OF THINGS WHICH I THINK
HAVE REPAIRED RELATIONS BETWEEN AUSTRALIAN AND THE UNITED
STATES ALREADY. WE HAVE INDICATED AUSTRALIA SHOULD BE PART
OF A WORLD-WIDE NAVIGATION SYSTEM, OF OMEGA. WE HAVE INDI-
CATED THAT WE SUPPORT STRONGLY THE EXTENSION OF LOGISTIC
SUPPORT FACILITIES AT DIEGO GARCIA, TO PROVIDE A BALANCE
OF UNITED STATES FORCES AGAINST SOVIET VESSELS IN THE INDIAN
OCEAN.

4. QTE. AND WE HAVE INDICATED THAT, SUBJECT TO ENVIRONMENTAL
ASPECTS, WE ARE PREPARED TO LET UNITED STATES VESSELS -
NUCLEAR-POWERED OR OTHERWISE - TO UTILISE AUSTRAL-
IAN FACILITIES. ALL THESE THINGS CONTRIBUTE ALREADY
TO REAFFIRMING RELATIONSHIPS.

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5. QTE. WE MAKE NO APOLOGIES FOR CONTINUING TO REGARD THE ALLIANCE WITH THE UNITED STATES AS BEING OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE IN OUR FOREIGN POLICY. BUT I STATE AGAIN JUST A COUPLE OF WORDS I USED BEFORE: I DON'T THINK IT'S ONE (IN WHICH) WE CAN BE REGARDED AS A SATELLITE.

6. QTE. WE CAN, IN FACT, SPEAK MORE FRANKLY TO THE UNITED STATES THAN MOST OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD AND WE OUGHT TO BE PREPARED TO DO SO WHEN WE DISAGREE WITH THEM. BUT WE OUGHT TO DO SO PRIVATELY AND THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS AND NOT PUBLICLY THROUGH THE MEDIA.

7. QTE. I BELIEVE THAT A CONTINUING AND SIGNIFICANT AMERICAN PRESENCE IS ALSO IMPORTANT AS A CONDITION FOR A STABLE BALANCE WITHIN OUR OWN REGION, AND WE WOULD WORK TO ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT SUCH A PRESENCE. THE AVAILABILITY OF FACILITIES THAT I MENTIONED BEFORE, FOR US VESSELS, IS PART OF THAT.

8. QTE. WE BASICALLY SEE AUSTRALIA MOVING TO A GREATER DEGREE OF SELF-RELIANCE, BUT WHILST WE MOVE TOWARDS A GREATER DEGREE OF SELF-RELIANCE THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE ABANDON THE AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP. THE GREATER SELF-RELIANCE SHOULD BE SEEN NOT AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE AMERICAN ALLIANCE, AS SOME MEMBERS OF THE LABOR PARTY HAVE ALWAYS THOUGHT, BUT RATHER AS A MEANS OF MAKING IT MORE EFFECTIVE, AND HOPEFULLY MORE ADAPTIVE, IN CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES. END QTE.
HARGROVE

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